

Here we come to the Dark Ages of Israel's history. Every man did that which was right in his own eyes. Even the best men of the time were on a plane far below that on which Moses and Joshua and their associates had lived. It looked as if the knowledge of Jehovah's character might fade from the minds of men. But there were a few faithful souls who kept alive the knowledge of the holy and merciful God. Samuel, the last of the Judges, became the first of a long line of prophets. Under the guiding hand of Samuel a great revival breaks out, and Israel comes into an era of political power and of moral and spiritual energy.

The story of the period is told in Judges, Ruth, and 1 Samuel 1-7. The Book of Joshua was probably composed in this period.

V. THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Under Samuel the transition **from** a pure Theocracy to a Constitutional Monarchy is made. **An** earthly king is seated on Jehovah's throne over Israel. When Saul proves a failure, Jehovah chooses a man after his own heart and places David on the throne. David as king becomes significant in the revelation of Jehovah's redemptive purpose. The promise of God attaches itself to David's house. The Ideal King of the future will be a second David.

Perhaps David's harp was more important to the plan of Redemption than his scepter. Through the many psalms which he composed he has brought men of all succeeding ages into a closer fellowship with God.

Solomon contributed out of his stores of worldly wisdom many proverbs to guide the young to success and honor.

The period of the United Kingdom was one in which real advance was made in the redemptive plan of Jehovah. Prophets and psalmists and sages united in promoting faith and morality and spirituality in Israel. Times of reaction and moral declension may be traced in the later history of Israel, but